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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W
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R 241805Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4700
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1086

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GY, UY
SUBJECT: VISIT OF URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

SUMMARY: ON MAY 17 RODNEY ARISMENDI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY, LEOPOLDO BRUERAS AND E. SERRANO ARRIVED IN GUYANA AT INVITATION OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) PARTY. THREE MEMBER TEAM HAS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER BURNHAM AND OTHER PNC OFFICIALS. BURNHAM'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE VISIT TYPIFIES HIS CONCERN WITH HIS IMAGE AS A "PROGRESSIVE" SOCIALIST AND MAY BE AN ATTEMPT TO FEND OFF RECENT CRITICISM AND BARBED COMMENTS FROM THE OPPOSITION ABOUT HIS COURTING OF THE US. END SUMMARY.

1. CHRONICLE OF MAY 22 CARRIED BACK-PAGE REPORT OF REMARKS MADE BY ARISMENDI AT PUBLIC ADDRESS DELIVERED AT GEORGETOWN CITY HALL. ARISMENDI EXPRESSED HIS PARTY'S BELIEF THAT GUYANESE FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SOCIETY IS PART OF BLOODY LATIN AMERICAN REVOLUTION AGAINST COMMON ENEMY OF NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.
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PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PPP) MIRROR CARRIED EDITORIAL AND LONG ARTICLE DETAILING BRUTAL REPRESSION OF LEFTISTS IN URUGUAY, BUT WE DO NOT KNOW IF URUGUAYANS HAVE MET WITH PPP LEADERSHIP.

2. ARISMENDI REPORTEDLY PRESENTLY RESIDES IN CUBA. ON THE DAY OF ARISMENDI'S ARRIVAL, CHARGE QUESTIONED FONMIN

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WILL ABOUT VISIT. LATTER SAID THAT ROBERT CORBIN, MINISTER
OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INVITED THE
URUGUAYANS TO VISIT GUYANA DURING A VISIT TO CUBA LAST YEAR.
CORBIN IS A LEADER OF YOUNG RADICALS WITHIN THE PNC.

3. AFTER LEARNING OF ARISMENDI'S SPEECH, CHARGE TOLD WILLS THAT
ARISMENDI'S WORDS WERE NOT CONDUCIVE TO BUILDING A CLIMATE FOR IM-
PROVING US-GOG RELATIONS. WILLS CLAIMED THAT BURNHAM HAD TOLD
ARISMENDI THAT GUYANA'S HOSPITALITY DID NOT INCLUDE PERMISSION
TO ATTACK BRAZIL, VENEZUELA OR THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT
THE REFERENCE TO NORTH AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WAS COUNTER TO
THIS ADMONITION. WILLS RECOGNIZED THAT DAMAGE HAD BEEN
DONE AND APOLOGIZED.

4. COMMENT: BURNHAM'S POLITICAL TIGHTROPE ACT
FREQUENTLY INVOLVES HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT IN CONTRADICTIONS
SUCH AS THOSE INHERENT IN THE "PARTY-TO-PARTY" VISIT BY
ARISMENDI. ON THE ONE HAND, BURNHAM'S POLICIES AND
ACTIONS OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS HAVE TENDED TOWARD
MODERATION. THE MEDIA AND OFFICIALS HAVE GENERALLY
AVOIDED ATTACKS ON THE US. ON THE OTHER HAND, TO FEND OFF
OPPOSITION CRITICISM THAT HE IS A "BOURGEOIS" POLITICIAN
RATHER THAN A SOCIALIST, BURNHAM WILL ENGAGE IN SUCH
GESTURES AS HIS MEETING WITH ARISMENDI. BURNHAM IS
INORDINATELY CONCERNED OVER ALLEGATIONS THAT HIS
SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS ARE SUSPECT, OR THAT HE IS NOT A
"PROGRESSIVE" THIRD WORLD LEADER. THIS SENSITIVITY
INDUCES HIM TO MAKE WHAT FOR US ARE UNFORTUNATE RADICAL
GESTURES.
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5. AS FOR WILLS' APOLOGY, HE DID SEEM GENUINELY
DISTURBED OVER THE VISIT AND LATER OVER ARISMENDI'S
WORDS; HOWEVER, WHETHER BURNHAM ACTUALLY ADMONISHED
ARISMENDI IS DOUBTFUL.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, PARTY LEADERS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SUMMARY: ON MAY 17 RODNEY ARISMENDI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY, LEOPOLDO BRUERAS AND E.
TAGS: PFOR, GY, UY, (ARISMENDI, RODNEY)
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